

2015 Periodic Review Report Results and the New MSCHE Standards

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This is an experimental analysis aimed at providing an initial glimpse of how things might look under the new standards that were adopted in 2014 by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE). The new standards will be implemented after 2017.

The analysis is based on a mapping of the existing standards to the new standards. The new standards contain elements that were not present in the outgoing standards. In addition, some elements from the earlier standards were eliminated. Furthermore, some of the mapping entailed interpretation. Therefore, the analysis should be viewed as an approximation with a degree of uncertainty.

An early glimpse of how things might look under the new standards may be useful for planning purposes. Clearer expectations can lead to better organizational focus (even if there were no accreditation requirements). In that spirit, below are the results based on a mapping of the outgoing fourteen MSCHE standards with the incoming seven standards. The figures are for the 2014 and 2015 Periodic Review Report outcomes.

MSCHE Standard	2014 PRR	2015 PRR	2014-2015 Period
I. Mission and Goals	0%	0%	0%
II. Ethics and Integrity	0%	9%	4%
III. Student Learning Experience	25%	23%	24%
IV. Support of the Student Experience	21%	5%	13%
V. Educational Effectiveness Assessment	75%	50%	63%
VI. Planning, Resources, and Institutional Improvement	54%	86%	70%
VII. Governance, Leadership, and Administration	4%	18%	11%

The figures are based on an assumption that MSCHE will maintain the current level of rigor in its reviews. The external environment suggests that it is more likely than not that MSCHE could become at least somewhat more rigorous in its reviews.